

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8012

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Anthony W. "Tony" Cox upon being named City Manager of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Morristown City Manager Anthony W. "Tony" Cox, who was named City Manager of the Year for 2021 by the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA); and

WHEREAS, Tony Cox was presented with this distinguished award on September 21, 2021, during the 81st Annual Conference of the Tennessee Municipal League, which was held at the Chattanooga Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox received a bachelor's degree in political science and government and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; he is also a graduate of the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service's Senior Executive Institute; and

WHEREAS, with some twenty-six years of experience in city management in Tennessee, Georgia, and Virginia, Tony Cox was appointed city manager of Morristown in 2010; and

WHEREAS, stepping into the job, Mr. Cox faced a divided board, a divided community, and a lack of confidence in city service delivery; within a few years, however, he managed to unite the city's leadership and the community at large while improving confidence in the city's operations; and

WHEREAS, under Tony Cox's leadership, the City of Morristown has seen numerous financial improvements, including addressing issues flagged by the comptroller's office and

seeing the city's fund balance grow from less than \$50,000 to more than \$12 million over a ten-year span; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox has also guided efforts to improve water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure in Morristown. He led the effort to address the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's order on sewer overflows by implementing a program to bring the city into compliance, reorganizing sewer and water operations to prevent duplication, establishing a stormwater fund, and addressing erosion and stormwater issues throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, other improvements under Tony Cox's leadership include a new "shepherding program" that assigns planning department staff to a project from beginning to end; the reorganization of city departments to create more efficiency; a building program to add a new fire station, public works facility, and community center; and assisting in the expansion of Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Morristown by coordinating use of the existing public works facility; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox also led the effort to purchase the property of the Old Morristown College site and created a fifty-acre city park, the first major park addition in years; and

WHEREAS, as city manager, he also helped implement a new farmers' market area and green space for event use; addressed issues in the downtown area; coordinated the effort to install a ceiling with a sound system under a unique, overhead sidewalk structure; and assisted the industrial development board with current manufacturing expansions and location of new manufacturing to Morristown; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the city management profession, Tony Cox has a penchant for high standards and for finding, developing, and leading high-quality employees while developing solid working relationships with all of the elected officials he serves; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox's main responsibility, however, is to the citizens of Morristown and the people his city serves; he has devoted the best of himself to public service and to the notion that helping others through local government is his calling; and

WHEREAS, Tony Cox epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Cox for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Anthony W. "Tony" Cox upon being named City Manager of the Year for 2021 by the Tennessee City Management Association and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.